

Proposed edits to draft growth policy - submitted by Ann Brodsky, 11/6/19

for consideration at 11/14/19 CBB meeting.

Solid Waste Management

The Solid Waste Division manages the collection of household refuse for the City of Helena, and maintains and operates a transfer station for residents to dispose of bulk waste, recyclable commodities and yard waste. The Solid Waste Division is also responsible for management of the Lewis and Clark County Landfill, the Marysville Container Site, the closed Scratch Gravel Landfill, and represents the Department of Health on the Lincoln and Augusta Solid Waste Boards. ~~The division's goal is to maintain efficient, convenient, and cost effective solid waste service.~~

The Solid Waste Division provides curbside collection of landfill-directed trash for residential users and commercial businesses. Residents can transport their recyclables to the Transfer Station or to other locations in Helena (e.g., Safeway parking lot), or may contract with Helena Recycling, a private entity providing curbside recycling. ~~The division's management techniques include landfilling, recycling, and composting of waste materials.~~ The Solid Waste Transfer Station operates the landfill, household recycling, and composting of waste materials, taking in an average of 45,000 tons of refuse per year, with users charged a fee based on the amount and type of material being disposed. City residents receive a transfer station permit that allows each residential property owner to drop off a maximum of 1.5 tons of trash per year.

The division's "Tramp Truck" service collects typical household rubbish that does not fit into a household dumpster, such as bagged grass, leaves, branches, furniture, etc. Other materials such as tires, batteries, oil, paint, large appliances, hazardous waste, and construction debris from home renovations cannot be picked up by the Tramp Truck, but residents may transport these materials to the Transfer Station for disposal. The "Tramp Truck" service is provided to residential customers only and is funded by Solid Waste property tax assessments.

~~In addition to the services listed above, the City also cooperates with volunteer recycling programs, including the annual "Pines for Perch" program, and other events.~~

Consistent with its goals and objectives to conserve energy, promote recycling, and reduce solid waste, the City intends to proactively develop an Integrated Waste Management System, much like the one established by the State of Montana for state operations (see Title 75, ch. 10, part 8, MCA), which will reduce -- through source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting -- the amount of solid waste generated by households, businesses, and governmental entities located within the City and disposed of in the landfill.

It is important for the City to ~~continue to provide~~ develop an efficient, convenient, and cost-effective Integrated Waste Management System, covering not only solid waste collection and disposal services, but also reduction, reuse, along with opportunities for recycling and composting, which will minimize the amount of waste being landfilled.